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*Annexation, Preferential Trade, and Reciprocity.* An outline of the Canadian Annexation Movement of 1849-1850, with special reference to the Questions of Preferential Trade and Reciprocity. By CEPHAS D. ALLIN, M.A., LL.B., Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Minnesota, and GEORGE M. JONES, B.A., English and History Master, HUMBERSIDE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE, Toronto. (Toronto and London: The Musson Book Company. 1911. Pp. xii, 398.)

AFTER reading the sweeping general title of this volume it is somewhat of an anti-climax to discover on perusing the subtitle that in fact the book is confined to the Canadian annexation movement of the two years 1849-1850. In actual treatment, moreover, it is even more limited in scope. But three pages are given to the movement in the Maritime Provinces and not many pages more are allotted to discussing the attitude of either the United States or Great Britain. Thus we have here a very intensive study in an extremely limited field.

The annexation movement of these years, according to our authors, had its start after the defeat of the Tory party in the election of 1848, a defeat due in a measure to the fact that Lord Elgin, the newly appointed governor-general, abstained from interfering in the election, in accordance with the more liberal colonial policy adopted by Great Britain after the revolt of 1837. In this election the French had favored the Liberals and thus aroused in the Tories the bugbear of French domination. Furthermore, the members of the Tory party were extremely annoyed by the passage and signing of the Rebellion Losses Bill. But a more serious cause of unrest than either of these difficulties was the economic depression into which the country was plunged following the adoption of free trade by Great Britain. "Temporary insolvency was the price which Canadians paid for the triumph of English free trade" (p. 20). The preferential duties which had theretofore favored Canadian grain and millers now disappeared and the question of finding a market was the most pressing one before the country. Annexation to the United States seemed to offer a solution. Moreover, much of the carrying trade was being diverted to the United States, and New York was becoming the distributing centre for the business of western Canada, much to the dismay of Montreal, a situation which was only partially relieved by the repeal of the navigation laws in 1849.

Out of the economic distress, the social discontent, and the turmoil of race and party thus created, arose the British American League. After a considerable struggle the convention of the league took a stand in favor of protection and a union of the British-American provinces, measures which were expected to offer an escape from the evils of French domination, economic depression, and annexation. The annexationists, having failed to secure control of the league, found it necessary to unite the various elements of their supporters in an association of their

own. A manifesto was issued and an active campaign begun. The agitation was favored by the steady increase in the economic depression during the latter months of 1849, and annexation became the leading issue of the day. The chief stronghold of the movement was in Lower Canada, where it was favored by the ultra-Tories as an escape from French domination, by the radical French as a move towards a more republican form of government, and by the commercial classes as a relief from economic distress. It was opposed by the bulk of the Liberal reformers then in control of the government, by the moderate Tories, and, under the leadership of their clergy, by the great majority of the French. In fact the unresponsive, unsympathetic, and passive attitude of the French is declared to have constituted "the strongest barrier against the spread of annexation tenets" (p. 151). In this section, too, nearly the whole of the press favored annexation. In Upper Canada, however, the situation was very different; most of the disturbing features were lacking and but few of the papers espoused the cause. Yet even there the movement was gaining headway enough so that the government felt obliged to take a definite stand against it. Several officials who had signed annexation manifestoes were dismissed, and in January, 1850, the Colonial Secretary, Earl Grey, definitely stated that the British government would actively oppose any such move. A flank attack on the movement was also made by sending both British and Canadian emissaries to Washington to try to secure concessions for Canadian products and reciprocity, but they met with only the most half-hearted response. Even the annexationists failed to arouse much enthusiasm for their cause outside of New York and New England; the issue inevitably became bound up with the question of slavery and the South steadily opposed it. By December, 1849, trade conditions began to look better and thereafter steadily improved. This combined with the hostility of the government, the unresponsive attitude of the United States, and the great lack of unity and leadership among the annexationists themselves slowly undermined the strength of the movement and during the first half of the year 1850 it gradually passed from the field of politics. Its significance in Canadian annals may be found in the fact that, "the history of the protective policy in Canada dates from the adoption of the free-trade policy in England. The annexation movement was one of the passing phases of the struggle of the business interests for fiscal favours" (p. 290).

The authors' treatment of this subject is based very largely on newspaper editorials, manifestoes, and convention proceedings, and summaries of this material or extracts occupy the greater portion of the text. Little attempt seems to have been made to look behind these and to examine the actual situation as regards the economic depression by statistical investigation of any sort, in spite of the fact that the authors insist that there is to be found the chief cause of both the rise and decline of the annexation movement. Some investigation of this point, even at the expense of

further condensation of newspaper editorials, would have made the study more authoritative and complete. However, within the limited scope which the authors have set for themselves they have produced a highly intensive study, judicial in tone and eminently thorough.

CHESTER W. WRIGHT.

*Old Panama and Castilla del Oro.* With maps and rare illustrations.

By Dr. C. L. C. ANDERSON, Medical Reserve Corps, United States Army. (Washington: The Sudwarth Company. 1911. Pp. xv, 559.)

THE imminent opening of the Panama Canal has recalled attention to the history of the isthmus which, because of the early recognition of its strategic importance, must always be considered apart from the rest of Central America. This book is offered with the following explanation: "Barring the monumental work by Bancroft, not in reach of the general reader, there is no book in English dealing fitly with the early history of the Panama region, nor in any language is this information given in a single volume" (p. xiii).

The author's intention being to supply this deficiency, it would be unfair to expect the presentation of new material. The bibliography comprehends practically all printed sources in Spanish, English, and French, and a large number of the most important and trustworthy modern accounts. Manuscript and periodical material has not, apparently, been utilized at all. The *Calendar of State Papers Colonial*, though particularly informative as to the privateers from Jamaica, has not been used as extensively as it should be in correction of Exquemelin's more picturesque but less accurate account. The writer's own knowledge of the geography of the isthmus has enabled him to conjecture its former topography with great probability of accuracy, and has made his descriptions of the character of the country lucid and valuable.

The narrative covers the chief events of the story of Panama from the discovery to the failure of the Darien Colony in 1700. In view of the narrow and crowded scope it is regrettable that four chapters should be devoted to Columbus's early life and first three voyages, which might have been dismissed in one, since the discovery of the isthmus was made only in the fourth voyage. Nor can the brief accounts of Drake's exploit in the harbor of Cadiz and the fate of the Armada be regarded as pertinent. The sixteenth century receives a disproportionate share of attention, four chapters only (out of a total of twenty-four) being allowed the seventeenth, and those dealing primarily not with the isthmus, but with the assailants of the isthmus—the English buccaneers and the Scotch in Darien. The book is really a history not of Spanish settlement in that region, but of a succession of adventures: first the *Conquistadores*, then the Freebooters.

In the supplementary title, a "narrative history" is promised, and to